

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

(Acre)

CODE 342

DEFINITION

Establishing vegetation, such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes, on highly erodible or critically eroding areas (does not include tree planting mainly for wood products).

PURPOSE

To stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas, **protect land resources**, and improve wildlife habitat and visual resources.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On highly erodible or critically eroding areas. These areas usually cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment and management and if left untreated can cause severe erosion or sediment damage. Examples of applicable areas are dams, dikes, mine spoil, levees, cuts, fills, surface-mined areas, and denuded or gullied areas where vegetation is difficult to establish by usual planting methods.

Table 1 - Temporary Seeding Recommendations by Rate and Site Adaptation

Species/Mixture Adaptation	Rate in LBS/Acre (LBS/1000 Sq. Ft.)	Recommended Cut-Off Date for Seeding	Site	Notes
Annual Ryegrass	20 (0.5)	September 15	A	Winter Kills
Perennial Ryegrass	20 (0.5)	June 1	A	
Oats	96 (2.25)	June 1	A	
Cereal Rye	90 (2.0)	October 15	A	
Annual Ryegrass & Oats	10 (0.25) 64 (1.5)	June 1	A	Oats Winter Kill
Weeping Lovegrass	5 (0.1)	June 1	B	

A - Well drained to somewhat poorly drained

B - Droughty and excessively drained

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Table 2 - Permanent Seeding Recommendations by Use and Mowing Level

PRINCIPLE USE (A)	MIX NUMBER (MOWED)	MIX NUMBER (NOT MOWED)
Borrow Areas (A)	1,2,6 or 9	Any Mix except 4
Dikes, Levees, Dams & Pond Banks	1,2,6,9 or 13	3 or 7
Drainage Ditches & Channel Banks	1,2,6 or 9	1,2,3,6, or 9
Diversion (B)	2,6 or 9	2
Diversion	2,6 or 9	2
Effluent Disposal Area	Not Recommended	7 & 13
Gravel Pits (A&C)	Not Recommended	10 or 12
Gullied & Eroded Areas	Not Recommended	2,9,11 or 13
Reclaimed Landfill with Liner	Not Recommended	10,11, or 12
Mine, Waste & Other Spoil Banks (A)	Not Recommended	3,10, or 12
Recreation Seeding (D)		
Not Shaded	1,2,4, or 14	Not Recommended
Shaded	1,2,4, or 5	Not Recommended
Road Side & Other Slops and Banks (A)	1,2,6, or 9	2,3 or 10
Shoreline & Fluctuating Water Levels	Not Recommended	7 & 13
Ski Slopes	Not Recommended	2 or 8
Sod Waterways & Spillways	1,2,3,6 or 9	1,2,3,6 or 9
Sod Waterways & Spillways (B)	1,2,3,6 or 9	1,2,3,6 or 9
Staging Areas	Not Recommended	6
Streambanks	6 or 13	2,7,9, or 13
Utility Rights-of-Ways (A)	Not Recommended	1,2,10 or 12
Woods, Road & Skid Trails		
Not Shaded	Not Recommended	1,2,6 or 9
Shaded	Not Recommended	1,5 or 6

(A) - For detail on vegetating sandy and gravelly areas, see Vermont NRCS Publication "Vegetating Vermont Sand and Gravel Pits".

(B) - Designed for bare ground velocity.

(C) - Select mix based on percent fines.

(D) - General picnic and playground areas, driving and archery ranges, and camping and picnic areas.

Temporary Seeding Fertilizer Recommendations

Fertilizer	Grass Mixture (lbs.)	Grass/Legume Mixture (lbs.)
Nitrogen (N)	60	30
Phosphorous (P205)	30	60
Potassium (K20)	30	60

TABLE 3 - Permanent Seeding Recommendation by Rate and Site Adaptation

Soil Site Adaptation (A)	Mix #	Seed Mixture	Variety	Rate in LBS/Acre (LBS/1000 Sq. Ft.)
Well to Mod. Well Drained	1	Kentucky Bluegrass Creeping Red Fescue Ryegrass or Redtop	Adelphi/Barron Ensylva Pennfine Common	20 (0.5) 20 (0.5) 5 (0.1) 2 (0.1)
	2	Creeping Red Fescue Redtop and Birdsfoot Trefoil	Ensylva Common Empire	20 (0.5) 2 (0.1) 8 (0.2)
	3	Smooth Bromegrass Ryegrass Birdsfoot Trefoil	Saratoga Pennfine Empire	15 (0.33) 5 (0.1)
	4	Tall Fescue	KY-31	20 (0.5)
Well to Poorly Drained	5	Creeping Red Fescue Kentucky Bluegrass	Ensylva Adelphia/Barron	40 (0.9) 20 (0.5)
	6	Creeping Red Fescue Redtop Tall Fescue or Smooth Bromegrass	Ensylva Common KY-31 Saratoga	20 (0.5) 2 (0.1) 20 (0.5) 20 (0.5)
	7	Reed Canarygrass (B) Creeping Foxtail Redtop Birdsfoot Trefoil	Palaton/Venture Garrison Common Empire	15 (0.33) 5 (0.1) 5 (0.1) 10 (0.25)
	8	Tall Fescue Redtop Birdsfoot Trefoil	KY-31 Common Viking	10 (0.25) 2 (0.1) 8 (0.2)
Excessively to Mod. Well Drained	9	Creeping Red Fescue Tall Fescue or Smooth Bromegrass Birdsfoot Trefoil	Ensylva KY-31 Saratoga Empire	20 (0.5) 20 (0.5) 20 (0.5) 8 (0.2)
	10	Switchgrass Big Bluestem Little Bluestem Sand Lovegrass Birdsfoot Trefoil	Shelter/Blackwell Niagara Aldous/Camper NE-27/Bend Viking	4 (0.1) PLS 4 (0.1) PLS 2 (0.05) PLS 1.5 (0.05) PLS 2 (0.05) PLS
	11	Switchgrass	Shelter/Blackwell	20 (0.5) PLS
	12	Tall Fescue Redtop Birdsfoot Trefoil	KY-31 Streeker/Common Viking/Empire	10 (0.25) 2 (0.05) 5 (0.1)
Not Specific	13	Tall Fescue Reed Canarygrass (B) Redtop	KY-31 Palaton/Venture Common	20 (0.5) 10 (0.25) 3 (0.1)
	14	Tall Fescue	KY-31	100 (2.5)

(A) - For details on vegetating sandy or gravelly areas, see Vermont NRCS publication "Vegetating Vermont Sand and Gravel Pits."

(B) - Reed Canarygrass - Use only seed with germination rate of 70% or better that has been tested within the past four of five months.

(PLS) - Pure Live Seed - Warm season grass seed is sold and planted on the basis of pure live seed (PLS). An adjustment is made to the bulk pounds of seeded to compensate for inert materials and dead seed.